

OCT 10 2001

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MR. KARNOSKI: My name is Peter Karnoski. My

2 address is 1588 Sandinista Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada

3 89123.

4 I favor the Yucca Mountain Project because it

5 is essential to the continuous operation of nuclear

6 power plants in the United States.

7 Nuclear power is not the ogre that its

8 opponents want the public to believe. It is more

9 environmentally friendly than any fossil-fuel power

10 source and less costly per kilowatt hour than any

11 renewable energy source.

12 I had over 35-years' experience in the power

13 industry, and I worked on, approximately, ten nuclear

14 power plants and about 30 fossil-fueled power plants,

15 and I make this statement without any conditions.

16 The Yucca Mountain Project has been staffed

17 by some of the most talented engineers and scientists

18 that I have worked with in my 35 years of engineering.

19 I worked on the project for eight years, primarily in

20 the quality-assurance area.

21 In fact, I was manager of QA for the prime

22 manager contract for two of those years and can attest

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23 to the fact that all engineers and scientists working  
24 on the project were subject to close scrutiny in their  
25 ability to show the sources of their work and the paper  
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1 trail that ended with their conclusions.

2 Each of the participating laboratories was  
3 subjected to frequent detailed QA audits conducted by  
4 our project QA personnel accompanied, frequently, by  
5 representatives of the State of Nevada and always by  
6 Department of Energy QA personnel.

7 From this experience, I can say that the  
8 information set forth in the documents which the NRC  
9 will consider and study has been through a thorough  
10 critical examination by professional QA personnel.

11 I am convinced that the opponents of the  
12 Yucca Mountain Project use emotional statements that  
13 are far from factual. Their opposition to its location  
14 on the edge of the Nevada Test Site is more distant  
15 than the nuclear destinations which were made there in  
16 the '50s and '60s from which no damage or bad publicity  
17 ever was felt by Las Vegas or its tourist industry.

18 The fear that tourists driving along the  
19 highway will be intimidated by trucks carrying nuclear

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20 wastes to Yucca Mountain is strictly an emotional

21 argument that has no basis.

22 The history of radioactive waste shipments in

23 the U.S. is one of complete success and safety. The

24 fear that a truck will wreck on the I-15, I-95

25 Spaghetti Bowl, causing the release of radioactivity

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1 ignores the years of extreme testing that the

2 containers have gone through and the safety record of

3 radioactive shipments earned over 30 years of activity.

4 Despite the claims that the majority of

5 Nevada residents are opposed to the Yucca Mountain

6 Project, there are thousands of citizens who have taken

7 tours of the project over the last 28 years.

8 During my employment, busloads of citizens

9 visited the project, talked to the engineers and

10 scientists, and stood on top of Yucca Mountain where

11 its remoteness is so apparent.

12 These witnesses to the scope of work who

13 talked to the personnel who manned the testing

14 facilities be they hydrologists, geologists,

15 seismologists, or engineers left with an idea that the

16 work was being done by professionals.

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17 Many of those visitors disagreed with our  
18 politicians, many of whom haven't even visited the  
19 project site, but instead have believed every word of  
20 its critics.

21 I remember the comment of a man on one of  
22 those buses I guided through one of those tours quotes,  
23 "When are you going to get this damn thing done," end  
24 of quotes.

25 I answered that there were still years of  
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1 testing to be done to which he could only shake his  
2 head. He wondered why it had become such a political  
3 football, and so do I.

4 But our senators, especially Ex-Senator Bryan  
5 and now Reed, refuse to let science be the ruling  
6 factor. They play to the emotions, instead of rational  
7 thinking. I hope that they do not make the NRC think  
8 that politics should outweigh science and engineering.

9 That is it.